

Operation Ice Bridge – Site Brief

Kangerlusuaq (Greenland)

ESPO

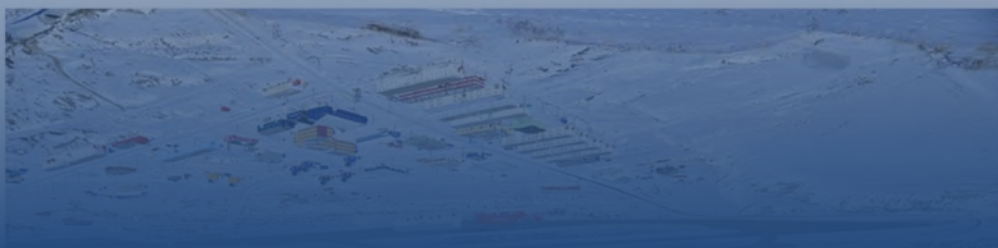
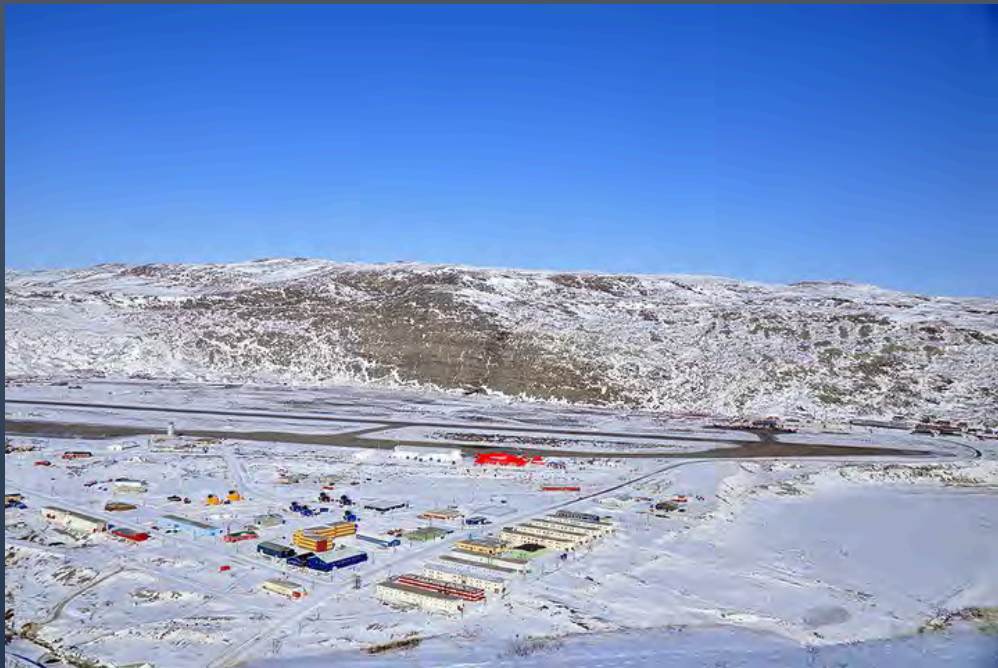


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Kangerlussuaq Overview

Kangerlussuaq is a settlement on the west coast of Greenland near the end of a fjord of the same name (Kangerlussuaq means “Big Fjord.”). Its Danish name is Søndre Strømfjord, and until the early 1990's, it was home to a U.S. military base known as Bluie West Eight.

Room and Board

OIB personnel are housed in the KISS facility, building 662 (Fig 1.) The KISS facility has double occupancy dormitory-style rooms. The cost per occupant is 300 DKK (about \$54 USD on 2/15/11 exchange rate.) Bathrooms are communal. There are two communal kitchens and lounge areas available as well as a meeting room that can hold up about 10 people; the nearby hotel Kangerlussuaq Hotel and its annex, the Hotel Tutu, can accommodate between 50 -



Figure 1

100 people. Laundry facilities are available at the KISS building; they are free of charge but you have to provide your own detergent (it can be purchased at the local market). Dining options include a cafeteria and several nearby restaurants, some located at the airport complex. KISS, the market, the hotel, restaurants and other businesses accept Visa and Master Card credit cards (usually no American Express nor Discovery) as well as US dollars, Euros, and Danish Kroners. ATM machines are available at the airport and it is possible to withdraw any of these currencies.

Internet and Email

Internet and Wi-Fi access for OIB personnel will be provided. Login details will be distributed before your arrival via email. The KISS facility also features a guest computer for researchers and field staff to use on a shared basis. The KISS facility is not set up for participants to make personal long-distance calls. It is therefore best to plan on communicating from Kangerlussuaq via email. Most computers should work off 220V (bring a plug adapter and if needed a step down transformer.) Smart phones work great in Kangerlussuaq (but at about \$19.99/Mb in download charges. Ensure that the data-roaming feature on your phone is disabled to avoid these charges.)

Transportation

Walking is the primary mode of transportation in Kangerlussuaq. OIB will have a very limited of rental vehicles (one or two) for transportation of the science team. A shuttle bus and taxis are available for sightseeing or personal transport.

Recreation and Shopping

A fitness facility (gym) is located in a building near the KISS facility. It offers recreational activities including swimming, weight lifting, tennis, badminton, basketball, softball, bowling, and rowing. The cost is 20 Kroner per visit (which equals about \$3.75 U.S. dollars).

There are three retail shops in Kangerlussuaq: two souvenir shops in the airport and the Pilersuisoq, a store that offers Danish food, clothing, sporting goods, house wares, liquor, beer, and wine.

Banking

Banking facilities are not available in Kangerlussuaq. Personal and payroll checks cannot be cashed. Traveler's checks, cash (Danish Kroner), and some U.S. credit cards and debit cards are accepted in Kangerlussuaq. The Greenland Airport Authority Accounting Office exchanges money at a fair market rate, billing a transaction against your credit card or debit card. You also can get a cash advance of a maximum of 500 Kroner on your credit card at the Hotel Kangerlussuaq. ATM is located at the airport.

Weather

Weather in the Kangerlussuaq area is generally cold through May, and snow is always a possibility. June, July, and August are normally temperate, ranging from 40°F to 70°F. Cool rain is common in summer months, so layer clothing to be comfortable in summer's wide range of temperatures. Arctic mosquitoes infest the coast during June and July. Mosquito nets and insect repellent are necessary at this time of year. Table I below shows average annual temperatures.

Kangerlussuaq Climate					
Month	Average min. - max. temperature, °C	Relative air humidity, %	Average wind velocity, m/s	Mean precipitation, mm	Sunshine hours
January	-22 > -16	77	4	5	6
February	-24 > -18	78	2	3	58
March	-21 > -13	76	2	2	171
April	-12 > -4	73	2	8	225
May	-1 > 6	64	4	5	241
June	4 > 13	62	4	12	250
July	6 > 15	64	4	22	241
August	4 > 13	67	4	28	233
September	0 > 7	69	4	17	134
October	-9 > -3	76	4	12	82
November	-16 > -8	75	4	11	17
December	-19 > -10	78	4	4	0

Figure 2

Getting to Kangerlussuaq

If not riding on the NASA P—3 you are most likely access Kanger via Air Greenland from Copenhagen Denmark. Regularly scheduled passenger flights occur several times a week but the schedule changes frequently. Visit <http://www.airgreenland.com/> for schedules. Greenland tourist visa is not required for United States citizens (for a stay up to 90 days). Non-US citizens may have different visa requirements. Please check with <http://greenland.visahq.com/> for your country of origin.

Foreign Nationals Returning to the US

U.S. border security has been tightened in recent years, and changes in policy have placed further restrictions on people entering the U.S. from Greenland. The Visa Waiver Program does not apply to people entering the United States from Greenland via the New York Air National Guard 109th (NYANG 109th) flights. Therefore, anyone without a United States or Canadian passport must have a valid Resident Alien Card (known as a green card) or visa in order to enter into the U.S. All field team members carrying foreign passports who want to travel to/from Greenland via the NYANG 109th must provide proof of their visa status in addition to a valid passport.

Insurance

Researchers, be sure to check with your home institution to confirm you have adequate insurance for your stay in Greenland. If you are planning to travel outside of Greenland for pleasure, you may want to consider additional traveler's insurance coverage.

Hazardous Cargo

Hazardous cargo must be packed and labeled according to Code of Federal Regulations CFR-49, Air Force Joint Manual AFAM 24-204 and International Air Transportation Association Dangerous Cargo Regulations. It is the sole responsibility of the individual shipper to make sure hazardous cargo is packaged appropriately and has the proper documentation. International Air Transportation Association and CFR-49 regulations should be followed for all hazardous shipments to Stratton Air Base. If required, military certification is completed at Stratton Air Base or in Greenland by CPS staff.

Obtain five copies of the Material Safety Data Sheet for each hazardous material being shipped. These are typically available from the vendor. Distribute as follows:

- One copy enclosed in the container.
- One copy included with the shipper's documents.
- One copy filed in the CPS Greenland office.
- One copy kept on site with the material.
- One copy given to a Greenland CPS staff member for use during retrograde shipping.

Alcohol

“From January 1st 2011 it is forbidden to bring any form of beer, wine, spirits or any other form of alcoholic drinks with you when you come into Greenland. From this date the regulations concerning tax-free import of goods to Greenland have been changed.” See their website for more details and information:

<http://airgreenland.com/Information/ombord/tax-free>

Items Banned in the United States

Please be aware that many items routinely found for sale in Greenland are illegal to import into the U.S. In particular, the U.S. Marine Mammal Protection Act prohibits the importation of any marine mammal products.

Recommended Cold Weather Gear

OIB operations do not require outdoor field gear as the one mentioned below. Most of the exposure to cold weather would be when in transit to/from the aircraft and to/from the cafeteria.

Nevertheless, if any type of outdoor activities are anticipated (i.e. during leisure time) the following might be something to have in mind (adjust accordingly):

- Insulated Parka with hood
- 1 or 2 pair Insulated bibs, Carhartt
- Wind pants, bib non-insulated
- Pile/fleece jacket
- Pile/fleece pants
- Lined wind jacket with hood
- Long underwear
- Expedition weight thermal top/bottoms
- Sleeping bag (rated to -40 degrees Fahrenheit), sleeping bag liner
- Sorel boots with spare liners (Glacier Model)
- 4-6 pairs Wool socks
- Hat, musher style with earflaps
- Hat, pile or wool cap
- Neck gaiter
- 1-2 pairs Insulated ski gloves
- Expedition mittens
- Recommended Personal Gear: Towel, a day-pack, chap-stick, sunscreen, sunglasses, water bottle, medications with copies of any prescriptions, hiking boots, batteries, reading material, toiletries. For more information: <http://www.greenland-guide.gl/kangerlussuaqtourism/>

Fig 3 shows the parking location of the P-3, outside the 109th ANG building. Figure 4 shows the overall layout of Kangerlussuaq and main buildings identified.



Figure 3



Figure 4